

From: Thomas Roff [mailto:salmonfolk@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 5:11 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Pt.Sur salmon trolling

The S proposal really trashes Salmon fishing. The proposed reserves run to the three mile line in almost all areas from Pt. Sur south.

Pt Sur isn't a deal breaker but does hit the 3 mile line. The weather in that zone places it on a lower value of importance.

Julia Pfeiffer hits the 3 mile line and protects nothing from salmon trollers outside the 50 fathom drop off. When trolling salmon this area is CRITICAL to the fleet. The weather along the beach is better. We troll here frequently and this zone is sheltered from the wind by Pt. Sur. We are usually about one mile off the coast.

Big Creek is more prone to wind but still an important part of salmon fishing. Salmon trollers stay off the shelf to protect the wire and \$50. lead weights we use. Also to minimize the interaction with rockfish, if a hook has a rockfish it can't catch a salmon. The rocky shelf drops off rapidly [it's a cliff] and salmon trollers stay on the deep side of the drop off. We fish approx. one mile off the beach.

When trollers "tack" a straight line is necessary because of the limited steerage with the fishing gear in the water, it can take a .25 mile to complete a 180° turn. Try to imagine tacking with 20-30 boats, approaching an MPA boundary and having to turn around in pea soup fog. It is common practice to start at Lopez point and tack up toward Pt Sur in the morning [usually not much wind in the AM] and turn around a tack downhill in the afternoon. The wind line is usually about 2-3 miles offshore and we can make a day of it. If proposal S is chosen we're really handicapped for no solid biological gain or protection. Morro Bay trollers are VERY dependent on this area.

There is a no take reserve at Big Creek that trollers have worked around for years. The rocky habitat is protected and the reserve outside edge prevents an interaction with nearshore species because of the depth. Why not make the reserve longer and use it as a model at Julia Pfeiffer. Why inflict substantial losses on salmon trollers for no biological gain?

Why has there been a year of stakeholder meetings if the staff is going to make up a plan that doesn't reflect the discussions?

Proposal one protects essential habitat and still keeps some decent fishing areas open. It seems like the staff read the fishermen's data and decided to take all the best areas for reserves or set up the reserves to make salmon trolling along the Sur coastline impossible.

In conclusion I would like to include item 5 from the MPA synopsis on DF&G's website "To ensure that California's MPA's have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines."

*Tom Roff
Morro Bay salmon troller*